

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:DPW

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NEA/IAI:W BSMITHIII

NEA/EGY - GGBROWN

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R 232150Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, US, EG, SY, JO, IS

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST STUDY TOUR BY AMERICAN
WOMEN'S INTERFAITH GROUP

1. PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO INFORM ADDRESSEE POSTS THAT
GROUP OF 25 AMERICAN WOMEN ACTIVE IN U.S. INTERFAITH
DIALOGUE EFFORTS PLANS TO VISIT CAIRO, DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND
JERUSALEM BEGINNING JAN 5 ON STUDY TOUR OF ME. GROUP,
WHICH IS MADE UP OF PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC AND JEWISH MEMBERS
(INCLUDING BOTH LAYWOMEN AND RELIGIOUS), HAS MADE PRIVATE
ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET WITH VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND PER-
SONALITIES ACTIVE IN WOMEN'S AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN ALL
FOUR CITIES. SHOULD ITS LEADERS APPROACH ADDRESSEE POSTS
FOR BRIEFINGS OR ADVICE, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE
APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

2. GROUP'S PLANNED ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

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DATE OF VISIT CITY LOCAL AGENT HOTEL

JANUARY 6-11 CAIRO ITTATOURS EL BORG
JANUARY 11-13 DAMASCUS AMLEVCO NEW SEMIRAMIS
JANUARY 13-15 AMMAN ATLAS TOURS GRAND PALACE
JANUARY 15-OPEN JERUSALEM (UNKNOWN) (UNKNOWN)

3. GROUP'S CO-LEADERS ARE: MS. SARAH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR, CONCERN, NEW YORK CITY. MS. INGE LEDERER GIBEL, INTER-RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, NEW YORK CITY. SISTER ANN PATRICK WARE, EDUCATOR AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, NEW YORK CITY.

4. FYI: GROUP'S LEADERS, IN BRIEF MEETING WITH DEPTOFF DEC 23, EMPHASIZED THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF THEIR TOUR IS TO GAIN FIRST-HAND INSIGHTS INTO CURRENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN ME IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR AWARENESS OF PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES CONNECTED WITH ACHIEVING A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THAT AREA. THEY INDICATED THAT AS RESULT OF THEIR GROUP'S DISCUSSION OF ME AFFAIRS TO DATE, THEY HAVE FORMULATED FOLLOWING TWIN PREMISES THAT THEY WISH TO EXAMINE FURTHER IN COURSE OF THEIR STUDY TOUR:
(A) NEED TO PRESERVE ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGN EXISTENCE, AND
(B) NEED TO ACCORD RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. FOR CAIRO: GROUP EXPECTS TO HAVE AUDIENCE WITH MRS. SADAT WHILE IN EGYPT, BUT NO RPT NO REQUEST WAS MADE FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD.
END FYI. KISSINGER

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